

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ANKARA 05945 101132Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 SNM-02 ISO-00 INR-07 OES-07 /029 W
-----068826 101134Z /14

R 091338Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8445

C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 5945

STADIS////////////////////////////////////

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SNAR, TU
SUBJECT: POSSIBLE DIVERSION FROM NEXT TURKISH POPPY CROP

REF: (A) STATE 183209, (B) ANKARA 2829 (DTG 151210Z APR 77)

1. 1976-1977 CROP OF DRIED POPPY PODS NOW BEING HARVESTED IN AUTHORIZED AREAS OF TURKEY. THE SOIL PRODUCTS OFFICE (TMO) IS APPARENTLY BUYING ALL PODS OFFERED BY FARMERS, AND SO FAR, WE KNOW OF NO CASES WHERE TMO HAS REJECTED PRODUCT. AS THE 1977 OFFICIAL PURCHASE PRICE HAS NOT YET BEEN FIXED BY THE GOVERNMENT, THE TMO IS CURRENTLY PAYING FARMERS AT THE 1976 RATE. GOOD QUALITY PODS ARE BRINGING ABOUT 20 TL/KILO, AND BOTH FARMERS AND TMO OFFICIALS EXPECT THAT A HIGHER PURCHASE PRICE WILL BE ANNOUNCED SOON. AT THAT TIME, FARMERS WILL RECEIVE THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE NEW PRICE AND WHAT THEY HAVE ALREADY RECEIVED. AT THE PRICES CURRENTLY BEING OFFERED, IF THE CROP REACHES THE FORECAST 500,000 TON LEVEL, THE GOT WILL GIVE FARMERS THE EQUIVALENT OF APPROXIMATELY U.S. \$60,000,000. IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT NO FOREIGN EXCHANGE WILL BE REQUIRED. BASED ON PREVIOUS YEARS' EXPERIENCE AND POPULARITY OF POPPY PROGRAM WITH BOTH FARMERS AND POLITICAL LEADERS, THERE IS NO REASON TO SUSPECT THAT THE GOT WILL NOT PAY FARMERS FOR THEIR PRODUCTS.

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WM WE HAVE OBSERVED NO DECLINE IN GOT DEDICATION TO MAINTAIN TIGHT CONTROL OVER OPIUM POPPY PRODUCTION. FARMERS ARE FULLY AWARE THAT GOVERNMENT ENFORCEMENT MEASURES ARE STRICT AND EFFECTIVE (REF. B). IN ADDITION, THEY KNOW THAT TURKISH COURTS HAVE METED OUT STERN PUNISHMENTS FOR MINOR OFFENSES. THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE TURKISH CONTROL PROGRAM IS ATTESTED BY THE FACT THAT THERE HAS NOT BEEN ONE KNOWN CASE

OF INCISION FOR OPIUM GUM IN THE THREE YEARS SINCE POPPY
PLANTING WAS RE-AUTHORIZED.

3. THE EMBASSY CONTINUES TO MONITOR DEVELOPMENTS IN THIS
AREA CLOSELY. IN OUR CONTACTS WE STRESS THE IMPORTANCE
ATTACHED TO THE SUCCESS OF THE GOT CONTROL PROGRAM BY THE
USG.
SPIERS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
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Sent Date: 09-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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TAGS: SNAR, TU
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